In the Claims:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communications base station which receives ~~multipath components of~~ signals from a number of high mobility subscriber terminals, each of said subscriber terminal signals comprising a number of multipath components, the method comprising:

for each subscriber terminal signal received, determining a best signal component; wherein for each determination of a best signal component, the method includes the steps of:

determining ~~the~~ a difference in time between reception of said best signal component and a reference time; and

transmitting to said terminal a transmission timing offset in order to receive said best signal component at substantially said reference time.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said offset is in the form of a regular layer 1 timing alignment command having two or more offset absolute magnitude settings.

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the magnitude settings include a minimum setting of 1 microsecond.

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the best signal component is determined as that having the highest average value of a predetermined signal parameter over a predetermined time.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the predetermined signal parameter is signal strength.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the average value of said predetermined parameter for a number of signal components over a shortened predetermined period are stored, and wherein in the event of fast fading of the best signal component the signal component having the next highest average value over said shortened period is determined as the best signal component.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising determining a new said best component only if said average value is a predetermined threshold above a current best component.

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising determining a new said best component only if said difference in time is above a predetermined threshold offset.

9. (currently amended) A mobile communications base station which receives ~~multipath components of~~ signals from a number of high mobility subscriber terminals, each of said subscriber terminal signals comprising a number of multipath components, the base station comprising:

means for determining a best signal component for each received subscriber terminal signal;

means for determining ~~the~~ a difference in time between reception of said best signal component and a reference time;

means for transmitting to said subscriber terminal a transmission timing offset in order to receive said best signal component at substantially said reference time;

wherein said time difference determining means is arranged to determine a time difference and said timing offset transmitting means is arranged to transmit a timing offset for each determination of a best signal component by the best signal component determining means.

10. (original) A base station as claimed in claim 9 wherein said offset is in the form of a regular layer 1 timing alignment command having two or more offset absolute magnitude settings.

11. (original) A base station as claimed in claim 10 wherein the magnitude settings include a minimum setting of 1 microsecond.

12. (original) A base station as claimed in claim 9 wherein the best signal component is determined as that having the highest average value of a predetermined signal parameter over a predetermined time.

13. (original) A base station as claimed in claim 12 wherein the average value of said predetermined parameter for a number of signal components over a shortened predetermined period are stored, and wherein in the event of fast fading of the best signal component the signal component having the next highest average value over said shortened period is determined as the best signal component.

14. (original) A method of operating a high mobility subscriber terminal comprising:

determining a transmission timing offset transmitted from a base station;

adjusting the transmission timing of said terminal according to said offset;

wherein said offset is in the form of a regular layer 1 timing alignment command having two or more absolute magnitude settings.

15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the magnitude settings include a minimum setting of 1 microsecond.

16. (original) A high mobility terminal for use in a mobile communications system, the terminal comprising:

means for determining a transmission timing offset transmitted from a base station;

means for adjusting the transmission timing of said terminal according to said offset;

wherein said offset is in the form of a regular layer 1 timing alignment command having two or more absolute magnitude settings.

17. (currently amended) A ~~method~~ high mobility terminal as claimed in claim 16 wherein the magnitude settings include a minimum setting of 1 microsecond.

18. (currently amended) A mobile communications system having a number of high mobility terminals and a base station which receives ~~multipath components of~~ signals from said terminals; each of said subscriber terminal signals comprising a number of multipath components, the base station comprising:

means for determining a best signal component for each subscriber terminal;

means for determining ~~the~~ a difference in time between reception of said best signal component and ~~on~~ a reference time for each subscriber terminal;

means for transmitting to ~~said~~ each subscriber terminal a transmission timing offset in order to receive said best signal component from that terminal at substantially said reference time;

wherein said time difference determining means is arranged to determine a time difference and said timing offset transmitting means is arranged to transmit a timing offset for each determination of a best signal component by the best signal component determining means for each subscriber terminal;

and ~~the terminals comprising~~ each subscriber terminal comprises:

means for determining a transmission timing offset transmitted from a the base station; and

means for adjusting the transmission timing of said terminal according to said offset.

19. (currently amended) A method of operating a mobile communications base station which receives ~~multipath components of~~ signals from a number of high mobility subscriber terminals, each of said subscriber terminal signals comprising a number of multipath components, the method comprising:

for each subscriber terminal signal received, determining a best signal component; wherein for each determination of a best signal component, the method includes the steps of:

determining ~~the~~ a difference in time between reception of said best signal component and a reference time; and

transmitting to said terminal a transmission timing offset in order to receive said best signal component at a predetermined time.

20. (original) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said transmission timing offset transmitted to said terminal causes said best component to be received at substantially said reference time.